

Including All Aberdeen's Children

As early as 1994, the UNESCO Salamanca Statement stated that mainstream establishments with an inclusive orientation 'are the most effective means of combating discriminatory attitudes, creating welcoming communities, building an inclusive society and achieving education for all.'

Aberdeen City is committed to ensuring all children and young people are respected, valued and supported in every way to ensure that education and care 'is directed to the development of the personality, talents mental and physical abilities of the child or young person to their fullest potential'. (The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act (2000))

Legislative Background

Along with other legislation, The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act (2000) has had an emphasis on inclusion and equal entitlement, with the presumption of mainstreaming since 2003. 'Social, environmental and religious and moral values are also important and relevant in considering the design of programmes, in choosing appropriate activities and in making ethical decisions about partnerships'. (Curriculum for Excellence)

However, policies and even legislation do not necessarily lead to effective inclusive practice. What is required is the development of a shared vision and belief in the direction to be taken within an empowering ethos of collaboration across the Authority, with strategic partners, and at school and service level.

How will Aberdeen City support effective inclusive practice?

In order to deliver effective inclusive practice, Aberdeen City aims to support schools, services, partners and parents to ensure that Education and Children's Services, at all levels, value diversity and operate within an inclusive framework. To achieve this we will:

- Effectively audit additional support needs in all schools and services to ensure a consistent and proportionate allocation of resources
- Organise structures and provision in a way which allows smooth transitions and flexible access to additional support when required
- Promote early identification and removal of barriers to learning through proactive strategies, support and reasonable adjustments
- Support schools and services to develop a range of suitably broad, innovative, flexible and personalised curriculum pathways which meet the needs of all, including the most able and the most vulnerable
- Ensure that all Aberdeen's children and young people are able to access and participate in positive and challenging learning experiences, which meet their needs and promote attainment and achievement, in their local community wherever possible
- Support schools and services to develop pedagogy which meets individual learner's changing needs in keeping with our Learning and Teaching policy
- Work in close and meaningful collaboration with all partners, including parents and third sector partners to maximise all pupils' life chances